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4th June 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE No 10

Dear Parents & Carers

This week's update centres around our plans for extending our opening to larger numbers of pupils. It's quite a long one this week as there is a lot to explain.

As you know school re-opened as a 'stand-alone school' on Tuesday this week after 7 weeks operating as a Hub School for the Workington area. We have spent the last week deep cleaning and preparing the site in readiness for welcoming back more pupils. Hopefully you will have seen the videos that we are posting on our facebook page to give you and the children an idea of how things have changed as well as what has remained the same. Both our Premises and Operations Risk Assessments have been accepted by the local authority which meant we could open this week. Risks have been identified and minimised through additional measures but obviously not eliminated.

This week we have a small number of children attending school but our system allows for more children to join as we progress over the coming weeks. This is the provision we have in place now:

- A Y3 group for children of critical workers. This is based in 3B and is being led by Mrs Brown and Mrs Walker.
- A Y4 group for children of critical workers. This is based in 4LJ and is being led by Mrs Hicklin, Mrs James & Mrs Cunningham.
- A Y5 group for children of critical workers. This is based in 5S and is being led by Mrs Stainton & Mrs Smith.
- A Y6 group for children of critical workers. This is based in 6DG and is being led by Mr Gaskell & Miss Winter.

Each of these groups has a capacity of 11 pupils under current guidelines around 2m social distancing. Each group operates as a separate 'bubble' so pupils and staff do not mix with those in other groups. Lunches are eaten in the classroom they are based in and each



'bubble' has a separate zone for outside play when out in the school grounds as well as their own toys and equipment. The school day for these groups is 8:45am-3:15pm.

As things stand these groups can operate for the rest of the term and there is currently space within them for new pupils to join. If a child or adult working within that 'bubble' became ill with Covid symptoms everyone within that group would need to self-isolate (along with others in their household) and the person affected would need to be tested. If the test result came back negative everyone could return to school. If the test was positive then that 'bubble' would be shut down for 14 days while everyone within it self-isolated. None of the other 'bubbles' in school would be affected and those groups could continue as normal.

If you are a critical worker and you would like your children to attend school please contact me at head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk before the end of the week in order to arrange a place for next week (wb 8th June). At the end of the letter is the current updated list of critical workers from gov.uk. You would need to contact me each week to confirm places for each following week.

Y6

The next phase of school re-opening includes all of our year 6 pupils. For our school this potentially involves another 64 pupils being present on site and as such is a large number for us to consider. If everyone returns this will then involve the use of 6 classrooms as pupils need to be spread out. Our current plan involves the provision of four groups based on previous parent feedback:

- Group 1: 6DG classroom with Mr Gaskell & Miss Winter
- Group 2: 6G classroom with Mrs Gibson & Mrs Pears/Mrs Gregory
- Group 3: Y5 classroom with Mr Bishop & Mrs Hucknall
- Group 4: Y4 classroom with Mrs Smits & Mrs Norris/Mrs Miller

If more Y6 pupils wish to return then we will re-assess our plans and alter groupings accordingly if possible. We may reach a point however where we reach our capacity and cannot admit any more children.

It is important to note that all of this will mean Y6 classes will not return as 'normal'. Pupils may not be with their usual teacher and not in their usual classroom and they will only be able to mix with pupils in their 'bubble' during the school day. In order to support transition we are going to try to organise the groupings on the destination secondary school the children will be attending. Any Y6 pupils joining after 15th will only be able to do so at the beginning of each week and this must be pre-arranged with the school. We would encourage all Y6 pupils to attend full time after the 15th.



In consultation with the school governors and other local headteachers we have decided to re-open to Y6 from **Monday 15th June**. This decision has been based on the current local infection rates in Allerdale and Cumbria as well as the recent Independent SAGE models that highlight the reduced rates of infection as a result of waiting for this time.

This has been a very difficult decision as we are desperate to see the children as soon as possible but I hope you can understand the reasons behind the decision we have made. It is clear from looking around the local area that more people are now out and about and mixing and not always at the correct social distance. We feel that by waiting until the 15th this will give us time to see the impact of these new behaviours on local rates of infection.

Please can you email me at head@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk by the end of Friday 5th June if you would like your child to attend school in the Y6 groups from Monday 15th June. The school day for Y6 will be 9:00am-3:30pm.

Once again I would like to thank you for your continued support and messages of encouragement and positivity. It is clear to me that you understand that every decision we make is with the best interests of your children at heart.

Your sincerely

Mrs S Frost
Headteacher

Mr P Rafferty
Chair of Governors

Current critical worker list from gov.uk:

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare



- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms-length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:



- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors